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7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND  
SECONDARY EDUCATION

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March 22, 2023

Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on THUD, Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives

Mike Quigley  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on THUD, Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting \$2.5 Million under the FY 24 HUD-Economic Development Initiative program for Pima Community College's proposal to fund construction infrastructure for their Center of Excellence for Health Sciences Workforce Incubator. This project will allow Arizona to address severe health workforce shortages head on.

Over the past decade, Pima Community College has transitioned to a high-tech institution serving the needs of our region's growing aerospace, applied technology, and healthcare industries. Developing Centers for Excellence in key areas such as Applied Technology, Information Technology, and Health Professions, Pima is focused on strengthening partnerships and expanding employer engagement to ensure that today's students will have the skills needed today for high-growth, high-wage jobs and will be prepared with the technology, communication, and critical thinking skills to adapt to future needs.

PCC's Health Sciences Center of Excellence (HSCOE) is the third CoE that the College is developing. This Center will be located at PCC's West Campus at the crossroads of Anklam and Greasewood. The Center will occupy an estimated 75,000 gross square feet and is proposed as a remodel of two existing buildings, which will house all allied health and nursing programs. The \$2.5 Million will fund construction infrastructure and the purchase of training equipment and specialized medically related furniture needed for the Center of Excellence, and especially its Simulation Center. Construction infrastructure includes:

- Upgraded high amperage electrical wiring and electrical panels for large equipment such as surgical lighting, laboratory hoods, anesthesia machines, SynDaver ultra-high-fidelity medical simulation models, Anatomage tables, nursing headwalls, defibrillators, autoclave, and pharmacy automated dispensing station.
- Upgraded network wiring for advanced simulator equipment, SimIQ simulations and camera management system, electronic health records.
- Oversized hospital elevators large enough to handle the transport of hospital beds.

- Training equipment will include the equipment above, plus incubators, operating tables and hospital beds, laparoscopy towers, xray machines, Bovie high frequency electro-surgical generator, and Phase contrast microscopes for tissue cultures.

The Simulation Center will provide services to both the HSCOE and to the community at large. Research demonstrates that learners achieve better outcomes in simulation than in clinical practice, which when integrated, will reduce the strain on the clinical environment, which continues to be a significant barrier to increasing enrollments in health professions. Simulation used in training allows for hands-on learning of procedural and cognitive skills in a real-life environment, but without risk to patients or staff. Simulation exercises provide reproducible curricula for all trainees and instant performance feedback. Learners address hands-on and thinking skills, such as knowledge-in-action, procedures, decision-making, and effective communication.

Employment in healthcare occupations is projected to grow 16 percent by 2030, much faster than the average for all occupations, adding about 3.3 million new jobs. Healthcare occupations are projected to add more jobs than any of the other occupational groups. This projected growth is mainly due to an aging population, leading to greater demand for healthcare services. Arizona's Education and Health Services sector projects a Statewide increase of 37,126 health-related jobs by 2024. Due to the rapid growth shown in this sector, along with an already existing shortage of nurses, Pima Community College has been entrusted with meeting both employer and community needs for skilled labor and access to high quality skills-based education. The College's industry partners have consistently expressed concerns about their ability to source qualified talent, and growth in the sector will place even more pressure on the available labor pool. These circumstances have left employers facing a difficult challenge maintaining the workforce they need to sustain their productivity levels. PCC seeks to respond to the future needs of industry partners in the healthcare sector by developing new micro-pathways and reskilling and upskilling opportunities for working learners as well as rapid-entry training and continuation of learning.

The Health Sciences Center of Excellence is the result of extensive collaboration with local healthcare partners and employers, engaging in large-scale strategic planning sessions, and soliciting continuous feedback. This project meets all requirements, is shovel ready, and can obligate funds within a year.

Thank you for your consideration for this important proposal.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress